IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bernd-Georg Pietras, et al.	§	
	§	Group Art Unit: 3723
Serial No.: 10/681,570	§	
Confirmation No.: 6819	§	Examiner: Hadi Shakeri
Filed: October 8, 2003	§	
	§	Customer No. 36735
For: TONG ASSEMBLY	§	

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 12, 2006

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 12, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 12, 2007, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0485/JCH, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.